

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A body fluid absorbent wearing article, comprising:

a liquid-pervious topsheet;

a liquid-impervious backsheet;

a liquid-absorbent panel disposed between said topsheet and said backsheet;

said panel comprising ~~being composed of by~~ a first fibrous assembly sub-panel lying on a side of said topsheet and having a compressive restoring elasticity, and a substantially flat second fibrous assembly sub-panel underlying said first fibrous assembly sub-panel;

A15 said first fibrous assembly sub-panel having a substantially flat portion spaced ~~upward~~ from said second fibrous assembly sub-panel by a first given dimension and a plurality of protuberant portions extending from ~~embossed on~~ said flat portion toward said second fibrous assembly panel so as to bear against said second fibrous assembly sub-panel; and

said first fibrous assembly sub-panel having a fiber density ~~progressively increasing~~ toward ~~as it gets nearer to~~ said second fibrous assembly sub-panel which has ~~and said second fibrous assembly sub-panel having~~ a fiber density ~~assembly~~ higher than that of said first fibrous assembly sub-panel.

2. **(currently amended)** The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 1, wherein said first fibrous assembly sub-panel has a plurality of ~~protuberant~~ wall portions each extending from said flat portion toward said second fibrous assembly sub-panel, being ~~being~~ spaced ~~upward~~ from said second fibrous assembly sub-panel by a second given dimension, and

serving to connect [[each]] one pair of the adjacent protuberant portions with each other.

3. (original) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 2, wherein said first fibrous assembly sub-panel has a fiber density of 0.03-0.10 g/cm<sup>3</sup> in said flat portion and a fiber density of 0.05-0.15 g/cm<sup>3</sup> in said protuberant portions as well as in said wall portions, and said second fibrous assembly sub-panel has a fiber density of 0.10-0.50 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

4. (currently amended) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 1, wherein said first fibrous assembly sub-panel comprises hydrophilic thermoplastic synthetic resin fiber by 70-100 wt % of said first fibrous assembly sub-panel and cellulose fiber by 0-30 wt % of said first fibrous assembly sub-panel, while said second fibrous assembly sub-panel comprises said synthetic resin fiber by 0-50 wt % of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel and said cellulose fiber by 50-100 wt % of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel.

A-15 5. (currently amended) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 1, wherein said second fibrous assembly sub-panel ~~contains~~ comprises at least one of fibrous or granular super-absorptive polymer by 0-50 wt % of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel.

6. (new) A body fluid absorbent wearing article, comprising:  
a liquid-pervious topsheet;  
a liquid-impervious backsheet; and  
a liquid-absorbent panel disposed between said topsheet and said backsheet;  
said panel comprising a first fibrous assembly sub-panel underlying said topsheet and a second fibrous assembly sub-panel underlying said first fibrous assembly sub-panel;  
said first fibrous assembly sub-panel having a plurality of protuberant portions extending away from said topsheet and toward said second fibrous assembly panel so as to bear against said second fibrous assembly sub-panel;

said second fibrous assembly sub-panel having a fiber density higher than that of said first fibrous assembly sub-panel.

7. (new) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 6, wherein said first fibrous assembly sub-panel further has a plurality of wall portions each being spaced from said second fibrous assembly sub-panel and connecting one pair of adjacent said protuberant portions with each other;

said first fibrous assembly sub-panel has a fiber density of  $0.05\text{-}0.15\text{ g/cm}^3$  in said protuberant portions as well as in said wall portions; and

said second fibrous assembly sub-panel has a fiber density of  $0.10\text{-}0.50\text{ g/cm}^3$ .

8. (new) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 6, wherein said first fibrous assembly sub-panel has a surface which faces the topsheet and which is generally flat throughout an entire area thereof.

A15 9. (new) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 8, wherein said first fibrous assembly sub-panel further has a base portion defining said surface, said protuberant portions extending from an opposite surface of said base portion toward said second fibrous assembly sub-panel; and

a fiber density of said protuberant portions is higher than that of said base portion and lower than the fiber density of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel.

10. (new) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 9, wherein said first fibrous assembly sub-panel further has a plurality of wall portions each extending from the base portion toward said second fibrous assembly sub-panel, being spaced from said second fibrous assembly sub-panel, and connecting one pair of adjacent said protuberant portions with each other;

a fiber density of said wall portions is higher than that of said base portion and lower than

the fiber density of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel.

11. (new) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 10, wherein the opposite surface of said base portion includes a plurality of disconnected areas each being completely surrounded by a number of said protuberant portions and said wall portions.

12. (new) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 6, wherein said first fibrous assembly sub-panel further has a base portion which is adjacent said topsheet and from which said protuberant portions extend toward said second fibrous assembly sub-panel; and

a fiber density of said protuberant portions is higher than that of said base portion and lower than the fiber density of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel.

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13. (new) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 12, wherein the fiber density of said base portion is in a range of 0.03-0.10 g/cm<sup>3</sup>; the fiber density of said protuberant portions is in a range of 0.05-0.15 g/cm<sup>3</sup>; and the fiber density of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel is 0.10-0.50 g/cm<sup>3</sup> in a range of.

14. (new) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 12, wherein said first fibrous assembly sub-panel further has a plurality of wall portions each extending from the base portion toward said second fibrous assembly sub-panel, being spaced from said second fibrous assembly sub-panel, and connecting one pair of adjacent said protuberant portions with each other;

a fiber density of said wall portions is higher than that of said base portion and lower than the fiber density of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel.

15. (new) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 6, wherein said second fibrous assembly sub-panel contacts said first fibrous assembly sub-panel only at lower ends

of said protuberant portions, thereby preventing bodily discharge that has been transferred to said second fibrous assembly sub-panel from flowing back to the first fibrous assembly sub-panel.

16. **(new)** A liquid-absorbent panel to be disposed between a liquid-pervious topsheet and a liquid-impervious backsheet of a body fluid absorbent garment, said liquid-absorbent panel comprising:

a first fibrous assembly sub-panel adapted to underlie the topsheet; and

a second fibrous assembly sub-panel underlying said first fibrous assembly sub-panel;

said first fibrous assembly sub-panel having a base portion and a plurality of protuberances extending from a first side of said base portion toward said second fibrous assembly panel so as to bear against said second fibrous assembly sub-panel;

said second fibrous assembly sub-panel having a fiber density higher than that of said first fibrous assembly sub-panel;

wherein a second, opposite side of said base portion, including regions corresponding to said protuberances, is generally flat.

A<sub>15</sub> 17. **(new)** The fluid absorbent panel according to claim 16, wherein a fiber density of said protuberances is higher than that of said base portion and lower than the fiber density of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel.

18. **(new)** The fluid absorbent panel according to claim 16, wherein said first fibrous assembly sub-panel further has a plurality of wall portions each extending from said first side of said base portion toward said second fibrous assembly panel, being spaced from said second fibrous assembly sub-panel, and connecting one pair of adjacent said protuberances with each other; and

a fiber density of said wall portions is higher than that of said base portion and lower than the fiber density of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel.

19. (new) The fluid absorbent panel according to claim 18, wherein  
the fiber density of said base portion is in a range of 0.03-0.10 g/cm<sup>3</sup>;  
the fiber density of said protuberances and wall portions is in a range of 0.05-0.15 g/cm<sup>3</sup>;  
and  
the fiber density of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel is 0.10-0.50 g/cm<sup>3</sup> in a range of.

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15 20. (new) The fluid absorbent panel according to claim 18, wherein the first side of  
said base portion includes a plurality of disconnected areas each being completely surrounded by a  
number of said protuberances and said wall portions.